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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/700,295	11/03/2003	Michael E. Badding	SP03-079A	6519
22928	7590	01/11/2005	EXAMINER	
CORNING INCORPORATED SP-TI-3-1 CORNING, NY 14831			WALKER, KEITH D	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1745	

DATE MAILED: 01/11/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

JL

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/700,295	BADDING ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Keith Walker	1745	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 November 2003.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-28 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) 2-9 and 13-28 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1 and 10-12 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) 2-9 and 13-28 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 03 November 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:
 - I. Claims 1 & 10-12, drawn to a ceramic non-porous electrolyte sheet, classified in class 429, subclass 33.
 - II. Claims 2-9, drawn to a non-porous textured electrolyte sheet, classified in class 252, subclass 62.2.
 - III. Claims 13-28, drawn to a method of making an electrolyte sheet, classified in class 264, subclass 618.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

2. Inventions I and II are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention II has separate utility such as batteries, including but not limited to lithium, zinc, lead acid, and nickel cadmium, and in magnetic recording mediums. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

3. Inventions I & III and II & III are related as process of making and product made. The inventions are distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) that the process as claimed can be used to make other and materially different product or (2) that the product as claimed can be made by another and materially different process (MPEP § 806.05(f)). In the instant case inventions of group I & II can be made by a range of processes including sputtering, chemical vapor deposition, electroless plating.

Insufficient evidence exists showing the product of invention I & II can only be made by the process of invention III.

4. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.
5. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art because of their recognized divergent subject matter, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.
6. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and the search required for any one of the groups is not required for any of the other groups, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.
7. The examiner has required restriction between product and process claims. Where applicant elects claims directed to the product, and a product claim is subsequently found allowable, withdrawn process claims that depend from or otherwise include all the limitations of the allowable product claim will be rejoined in accordance with the provisions of MPEP § 821.04. Process claims that depend from or otherwise include all the limitations of the patentable product will be entered as a matter of right if the amendment is presented prior to final rejection or allowance, whichever is earlier. Amendments submitted after final rejection are governed by 37 CFR 1.116; amendments submitted after allowance are governed by 37 CFR 1.312.
8. During a telephone conversation with Svetlana Short on January 4, 2005 a provisional election was made without traverse to prosecute the invention of Group I,

claims 1 & 10-12. Affirmation of this election must be made by applicant in replying to this Office action. Claims 2-9 & 13-28 are withdrawn from further consideration by the examiner, 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a non-elected invention.

Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

Information Disclosure Statement

1. The Information Disclosure Statement filed on November 3, 2003 has been placed in the application file and the information referred to therein has been considered as to the merits.

Drawings

2. Figure 5A is objected to for not showing reference number (56') as referred to in paragraph [0048]. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the

applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 1 & 10-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by US Patent 6,428,920 (Badding).

The applied reference has a common assignee with the instant application.

Based upon the earlier effective U.S. filing date of the reference, it constitutes prior art under 35 U.S.C. 102(e). This rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) might be overcome either by a showing under 37 CFR 1.132 that any invention disclosed but not claimed in the reference was derived from the inventor of this application and is thus not the invention "by another," or by an appropriate showing under 37 CFR 1.131.

Regarding claim 1, Badding discusses an electrolyte sheet with one surface coated with a roughened nano-crystalline layer (Abstract), where the layer is less than two microns in thickness (Col. 4, ll. 64-67). The electrolyte sheet then has variations in thickness of at least 0.5 microns.

Regarding claim 10, a polycrystalline ceramic sheet is used consisting of partially stabilized or stabilized zirconia that is doped with a dopant selected from the group consisting of the oxides of Y, Ce, Ca, Mg, Sc, Nd, Sm, Eu, Gd, Tb, Dy, Ho, Er, Tm, Yb, Lu, In, Ti, Sn, Nb, Ta, Mo, and W and mixtures thereof (Col. 3, ll. 60-67).

Regarding claims 11 & 12, a flexible electrolyte sheet with a thickness of 5-20 microns is described (Col. 4, ll. 1-5).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 1 & 10-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Publication 2003/0165732 A1 (McElroy) in view of US Publication 2001/0044043 (Badding).

Regarding claim 1, McElroy teaches a ceramic electrolyte with at least one non-uniform surface, where the surface is textured with a plurality of protrusions having a height of 0.5 to 2.5 microns (Para. [0187]).

Regarding claim 10, a ceramic electrolyte comprising yttria stabilized zirconia (Para. [0189]).

McElroy doesn't directly teach to the thickness or flexibility of the electrolyte.

Regarding claims 11 & 12, Badding teaches the use of a flexible ceramic electrolyte with the thickness in the range of 5-20 microns (Para. [0042]).

The motivation to modify the electrolyte thickness of McElroy is to enhance the thermal shock resistance and electrochemical performance.

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the claimed invention was made to modify the teachings of McElroy with the electrolyte

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thickness as taught by Bedding, since it would have enhanced the thermal shock resistance and electrochemical performance.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Keith Walker whose telephone number is 571-272-3458. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. - Fri. 8am - 5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Patrick Ryan can be reached on 571-272-1292. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

kdw


PATRICK JOSEPH RYAN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER